

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /079 W  
-----086032 112035Z /43

P R 111746Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2015  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMCONSUL MIALN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL TURIN  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY  
USDOCOSOUTH

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USEC

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: NEW LAMA INTERVIEW REOPENS LABOR POLEMICS

REF: ROME 6487; 5055; 4561; 3075

1. SUMMARY. ANNOYANCE WITH PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS BY LAMA  
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(CGIL) AND BENVENUTO (UIL) OF IMPORTANT LABOR ISSUES  
SLATED TO BE DISCUSSED BY TOP LEADERS OF THE CONFEDERATION  
CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) HAS LED CISL SECRETARY GENERAL MACARIO  
TO RENEW THE POLEMICS WITHIN CCU RANKS. IRKED PRIMARILY  
BY A LAMA NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, WHICH FOLLOWED THAT OF  
BENVENUTO, CISL REFUSED TO PARTICPATE IN A CCU  
SECRETARIAT MEETING ON APRIL 8. FOLLOWING CONCILIATORY

MOVES BY LAMA, THE MEETING HAS BEEN RE-SET FOR APRIL 11. IN HIS INTERVIEW, LAMA, APART FROM STRONGLY SUPPORTING BENVENUTO'S CALL FOR EXTRAORDINARY LABOR COOPERATION IN STEMMING HUGE LOSSES BY ALFA ROMEO, DENOUNCED THE BRIGATE ROSSE AND ALL WHO SUPPORT VIOLENCE AGAINST THE STATE, CALLING FOR THEIR EXPULSION FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT, AND IN EFFECT CONCEDED THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, WHICH ENJOYS DIRECT COMMUNIST SUPPORT, IS A BETTER ONE THAN THE ONE WHICH PRECEDED IT. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR DISACCORD AMONG THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) HAS FLARED UP AGAIN FOLLOWING A HIATUS INDUCED BY THE TRAUMATIC EVENTS SURROUNDING THE KIDNAPPING OF ALDO MORO. IN A LETTER EXPRESSING KEEN UNHAPPINESS WITH THE BEHAVIOR OF HIS COUNTERPARTS (CGIL SEC GEN LAMA AND UIL SEC GEN BENVENUTO), CISL SECRETARY GENERAL MACARIO ANNOUNCED LATE ON APRIL 7 THAT THE CISL WOULD ABSENT ITSELF FROM THE MEETING OF THE CCU SECRETARIAT SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 8. WITH REFERENCE TO INTERVIEWS GIVEN IN RECENT DAYS TO THE DAILY LA REPUBBLICA BY BENVENUTO AND LAMA, MACARIO AND THE CISL ACCUSED THE TWO LEADERS (BY IMPLICATION, PRIMARILY THE LATTER) OF PRE-EMPTING THE DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANT LABOR ISSUES BY TAKING PUBLIC POSITIONS ON THEM. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MACARIO'S LETTER, THE APRIL 8 MEETING WAS CANCELLED. FOLLOWING A MOLLIFYING COMMUNICATION TO THE CISL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM LAMA, THE MEETING WAS RE-SET FOR TODAY, APRIL 11.

3. A MARCH 31 INTERVIEW IN LA REPUBBLICA BY UIL CHIEF BENVENUTO, URGING UNION COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE GRAVE FINANCIAL CRISIS WHICH FACES THE STATE-OWNED AUTOMOBILE CORPORATION, ALFA ROMEO, PRODUCED A LIVELY, AND AT LEAST PARTLY CRITICAL, DISCUSSION. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN INTERVIEW, IN THE SAME PAPER, GIVEN BY CGIL HEAD LAMA ON APRIL 7 WHO SAID AT THE VERY OUTSET: "BENVENUTO IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT AND THOSE WHO ATTACK HIM NOT ONLY DO NOT SHARE THE LINE APPROVED IN EUR (NOTE: SO-CALLED BECAUSE THE MEETING WHICH APPROVED THE LINE WAS HELD IN ROME/EUR--SEE ROME'S 3075) BUT ALSO SHOW AN INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THAT WITH OUR POWER WE CAN DO MUCH GOOD, BUT ALSO MUCH EVIL, FOR THIS COUNTRY". LAMA DESCRIBED THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY BENVENUTO AS "THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE EUR LINE".

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4. AS FOR THOSE WHO CRITICIZE THE CALL FOR COOPERATION, SUCH AS AGREEING TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY BECAUSE IT WOULD UNDO TRADE UNION CONQUESTS, LAMA DESCRIBED THEM AS ACTING "A THOUGH THEY HAD A TREASURE TO PRESERVE IN A CASE, UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE GUARDING A PILE OF ASHES". POINTING OUT THAT ALFA ROMEO IS LOSING 140 BILLION LIRE (\$175 MILLION) ANNUALLY AND MORE THAN 700,000 LIRE (MORE THAN \$800) FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVERY CAR PRODUCED, LAMA SAID: "WHEN FACTORIES AND CORPORATIONS LOSE BILLIONS AND BILLIONS EVERY YEAR, ONE EITHER CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR RECOVERY OR ONE HONESTLY PROCLAIMS THAT ONE WISHES TO LIVE AS A PARASITE AT THE

EXPENSE OF OTHER WORKERS AND OF OTHER EMPLOYERS".

5. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM, LAMA DENOUNCED THOSE WHO HESITATE TO SUPPORT THE STATE AGAINST ITS VIOLENT ATTACKERS. "THOSE WHO EMBRACE THE SLOGAN 'NOT WITH EITHER THE STATE OR THE BRIGATE ROSSE', CANNOT BE A PART OF THE UNIFIED LABOR FEDERATION: THEY EITHER LEAVE IT OR THEY OUGHT TO BE EXPELLED FROM IT", LAMA SAID, AND ADDED: "BETWEEN US AND VIOLENCE, BETWEEN THE BRIGATE ROSSE AND THE WORKING CLASS THERE OUGHT TO BE THE SAME GULF OF POLITICS AND IDEALS AS THERE WAS BETWEEN THE PARTISANS AND THE BLACK BRIGADES. AND JUST AS IT IS HARDLY IMMAGINABLE THAT, IN A DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY, SOMEONE RISE TO JUSTIFY FASCISM, SO IT IS NO LONGER TOLERABLE TO ENDURE ANY FORM OF AMBIGUOUS CONNIVANCE WITH THE PRACTICE OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE". LAMA DENIED THAT HE WAS ADVOCATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOR VIGILANTES, BUT ASSERTED IT WAS THE DUTY OF EVERY WORKING PERSON "TO GIVE THE ALARM INSTEAD OF TURNING HIS HEAD WHENEVER SOMEONE WAS SEEN TO THROW A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL OR TO HIDE A PISTOL UNDER HIS SHIRT". ANY OTHER BEHAVIOR, LAMA SAID, "IS TO COLLABORATE WITH SUBVERSION".

6. FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE CISL ACCUSATION, RAISED IN THE PAST, THAT THE CGIL SHOWED "AN EXCESSIVE PROPENSITY" TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT ENJOYED THE SUPPORT OF THE PCI, LAMA CONCEDED THAT "WE CERTAINLY ADMIT THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL MAKEUP CONSTITUTES A PREMISE FOR A GREATER SENSIBILITY TOWARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PROBLEMS OF WORKERS. BUT HAVING SAID THIS, LAMA ADDED, "THE EVALUATION REMAINS TIED TO CONCRETE FACTS. THE LATEST ANDREOTTI (ECONOMIC) PLAN CONTAINS AFFIRMATIONS OF PRINCIPLES SUBSTANTIALLY SUPERIOR TO THOSE PRESENTED ORIGINALLY".

7. COMMENT. WHILE THERE ARE DOUBTLESS THOSE IN CISL WHO, AS SUGGESTED IN AN ARTICLE IN THE DC-ORIENTED DIALY IL TEMPO, OBJECT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF BENVENUTO'S AND LAMA'S ADMONITIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALFA ROMEO BECAUSE OF THEIR FAR LEFT ORIENTATION, CISL (AND ABOVE ALL, THE CISL LEADERSHIP) IS MOSTLY GENUINELY UNHAPPY OVER THE REPEATED TENDENCY OF LAMA AND THE CGIL TO PRETEND TO SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT, AND THUS TO PLACE CISL IN A SUBORDINATE POSITION. THEY ALSO RESENT THE FACT THAT LAMA, AND NOW MORE RECENTLY BENVENUTO, HAVE SOUGHT TO ENGAGE IN WHAT CISL FEELS IS TENDENTIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF TRI-CONFEDERAL AGREEMENTS. AN ANALYSIS OF THIS SITUATION IS NOT AIDED BY THE FACT THAT THESE "TENDENTIOUS"

INTERPRETATIONS BY LAMA HAVE OFTEN BEEN BOTH A)  
EMINENTLY SENSIBLE, AND B) DESIGNED TO COINCIDE  
WITH PCI INTERESTS IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL STATE OF  
PLAY. IN ANY EVENT, THOUGH CISL NOSES ARE CLEARLY OUT  
OF JOINT, AND CCU RELATIONSHIPS ARE APT TO REMAIN  
COOL FOR SOME TIME TO COME, NO MAJOR RUPTURE IS  
EXPECTED. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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